

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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JCIA to Rehire Approximately 30 Second Chance Employees with \$310,000 NJ Community Service Block Grant Funds

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and State Senator Sandra Bolden-Cunningham announced today that Jersey City has been awarded **\$310,000 in Community Service Block Grant** funds through the **New Jersey Department of Community Affairs** to re-hire approximately **30 employees** of the **Jersey City Incinerator Authority's "Second Chance Maintenance Program."**

The Second Chance program, which was formerly funded by the **Urban Enterprise Zone**, allows individuals with a non-violent criminal record an opportunity to return to the workforce and learn valuable skills. In September, the JCIA was forced to terminate 42 "Second Chance" employees who handled litter patrol, after Urban Enterprise Zone funding was no longer available for the program.

"We are grateful that Senator Cunningham was able to secure these important state funds for our city and for this valuable program, which not only creates job opportunities, but also provides a valuable service for the taxpayers of the city," said **Mayor Healy**. "We look forward to continuing to work with Senator Cunningham on securing additional state funds for vital programs and services such as this."

"The Second Chance program is one that I have been supportive of since it was created in 2001 by my late husband, Mayor Glenn D. Cunningham," said **Senator Cunningham**. "When I saw the opportunity to secure funds for this program in Jersey City I did not hesitate. I am proud to say that Jersey City will once again have an active Second Chance program."

Oren K. Dabney, Sr., Chief Executive Officer of the JCIA, said that those employees who were terminated in September would have first preference to be re-hired. He expects the crews will work **Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** to handle litter patrol, as well as snow removal from crosswalks and other areas.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///